

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on November 19, 2000. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-21 are in the case.

Claim 21 was added to better claim the invention.

At paragraph 3 of the Office Action claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nguyen et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,961,628 issued October 15, 1999 (hereinafter Nguyen).

The present invention, as set out in representative claim 1, comprises in part:

1. A method for processing a first memory request issued by a requestor and directed to a location in a memory, the first memory request containing an address corresponding to the memory location, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (A) associating the first memory request with a request identifier;
 - (B) selecting a memory device containing the memory location corresponding to the address;
 - (C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location;*
 - (D) receiving the information from the memory device; and*
 - (E) associating the information with the request identifier.*

Nguyen discloses a method of storing data using out of order memory requests which are identified at his load/store unit 250 with a transaction ID tag. Particularly, at Nguyen's Col. 2 line 63 through Col. 3 line 5, Nguyen states:

"In another embodiment, a method for out-of-order loading and storing of vectors through the use of transaction ID tags includes: a first step of receiving a first vector request from a first requesting device by a load/store unit; a second step of providing a first memory request corresponding to the first vector request to a memory subsystem by the load/store unit after the first step; a third step of providing a first transaction ID tag indicating the first memory request to the load/store unit by the memory system after the second step; a fourth step of storing the first transaction ID tag by the load/store unit after the third step; a fifth step of receiving a second vector request from a second requesting device by the load/store unit after the first step; a sixth step of providing a second memory request corresponding to the second vector request to the memory system by the load/store unit after the fifth step; a seventh step of providing a second transaction ID tag indicating the second memory request to the load/store unit by the memory system after the sixth step; a eighth step of storing the second transaction ID tag by the load/store unit after the seventh step; a ninth step of receiving by the load/store unit a first memory request result and the first transaction ID tag if the first memory request result is required by the first memory request, the ninth step being after the third step; a tenth step of receiving by the load/store unit a second memory request result and the second transaction ID tag if the second memory request is required by the second memory request, the tenth step being after the eighth step; an eleventh step of providing the first request result and the first transaction ID tag to the first requesting device by the load/store unit if the first memory request result is required by the first vector request, and the eleventh step being after the ninth step; and a twelfth step of providing the second request result and the second ID tag to the second requesting device by the load/store unit if the second memory request result is required by the second vector request, the twelfth step being after the tenth step."

Applicant respectfully urges that Nguyen has no disclosure of Applicant's claimed novel *(C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location;*

(D) receiving the information from the memory device; and

(E) associating the information with the request identifier.

Applicant respectfully urges that Nguyen uses the ID tag described in the quoted portion from Nguyen at the memory system, as shown by the words: "a third step of providing a first transaction ID tag indicating the first memory request to the load/store unit by the memory system". Accordingly, Nguyen is an example of the prior art described by Applicant in the present Specification at page 2 lines 20 through page 3 line 4.

Further, Applicant points out that Applicant claims *(C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location;* and then later *(D) receiving the information from the memory device; and*

(E) associating the information with the request identifier.

That is, Applicant issues a *second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location.*

In sharp contrast, Nguyen receives his tag ID from his memory system, as shown by his words: “providing a first transaction ID tag indicating the first memory request to the load/store unit by the memory system”. That is, Nguyen simply follows request and result with his ID tag. This point is made even more clear by Nguyen in his Fig. 6 where he controls multiplexer 630 by a queue of instructions request Ids “inst_req_id0”, etc. in generating his inst_req[16:0].

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Nguyen is legally precluded from anticipating the presently claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. 102 because of the absence from Nguyen of Applicant’s claimed novel *(C) issuing a second memory request without the request identifier to the memory device to access information stored at the location;*

(D) receiving the information from the memory device; and

(E) associating the information with the request identifier.

At paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nguyen and Official Notice that computer readable media are of common knowledge.

Applicant respectfully urges that the steps in method claims 1, 3, 4 or 5 are patentable in view of Nguyen. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that the patentable steps written to a computer readable media are also patentable.

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account
No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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